

APPENDIX B. CONTINUED

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MISS)

Establishment: Congress established the MISS on November 18, 1988. In 1990 a Mississippi River Coordinating Commission was appointed by the Secretary of Interior to develop an integrated resources management plan.

Designations: National River and National Recreation Area; Class II airshed.

Purpose and significance statements important to ecological monitoring:

- Protect, preserve, and enhance the significant values of the Mississippi River.
- Encourage coordination of federal, state, and local resource management programs.
- Provide a framework to assist the state of Minnesota and local governments develop and implement integrated resource management programs to ensure orderly public and private development.
- The Mississippi River is one of the world's great rivers and part of one of the most complex ecosystems on the planet.

General description: MISS includes 72 miles of the Mississippi River and four miles of the Minnesota River and encompasses about 54,000 acres of public and private land and water. Less than 50 acres of land, all on islands within the river, are actually owned and under regulatory authority of the NPS. This section of river, some of which flows through metropolitan St. Paul and Minneapolis, is a major transportation corridor and yet a place for recreation and quiet in the midst of an urban environment. Numerous private, state, county, and other federal landowners make management of access, resource use, and development complex. The rivers themselves, and the riparian zones along the shorelines and islands, are the primary biotic communities of interest.

Visitation and human uses: The MISS corridor is used primarily by residents of the Twin Cities metropolitan area with a current population of 2,560,000 people. Recreational activities include: fishing, hunting, boating, canoeing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, bicycling, jogging, picnicking, bird watching, pleasure driving, and photography. Walking and nature study are popular activities.

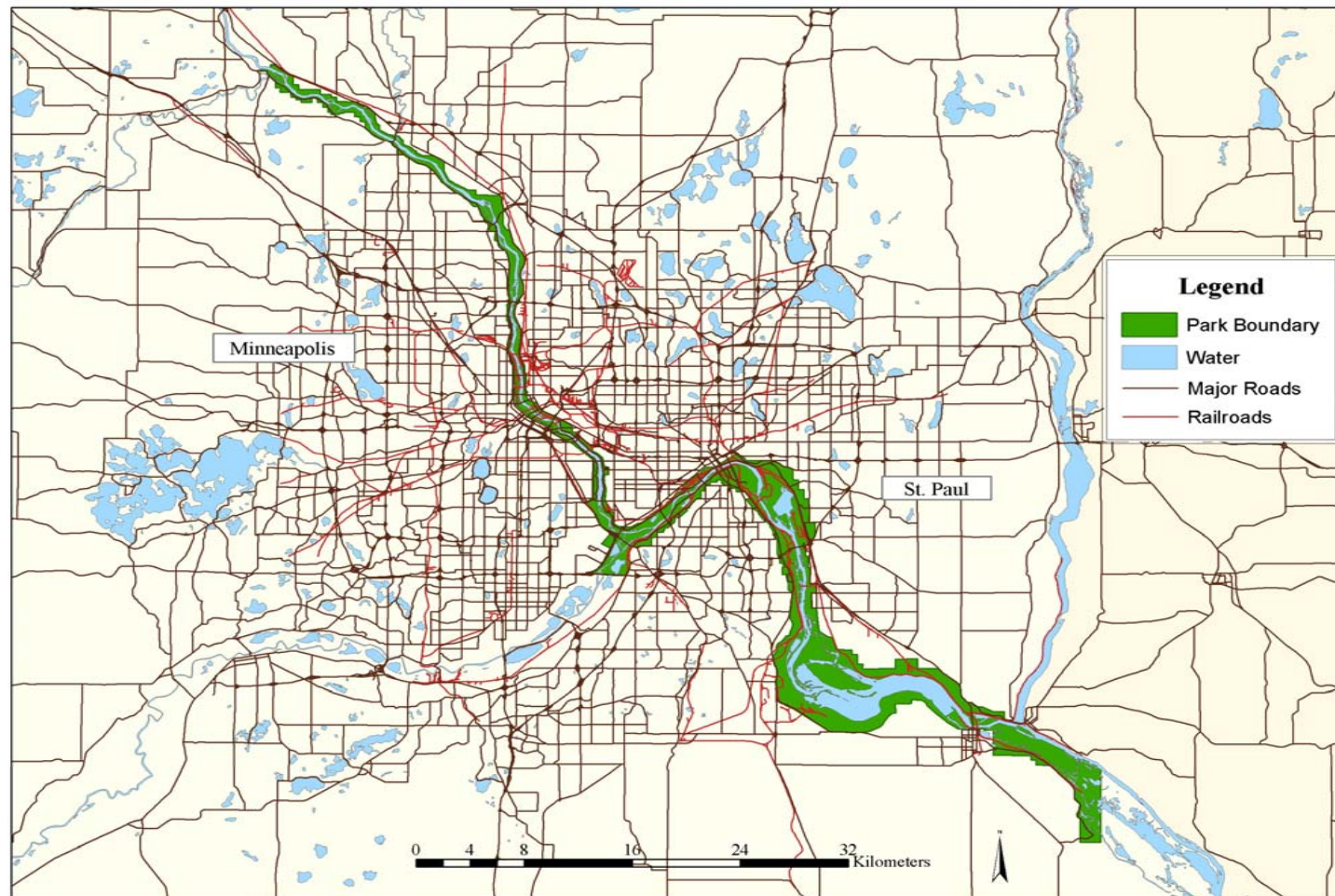
Critical resources: The Mississippi River is the most important mid-continental migration corridor for waterfowl and other migratory birds in North America. Although the 72 miles within MISS is a small portion of the 2,400-mile Mississippi River, it is an essential link through this highly fragmented and industrialized area. Its protection is critical because it helps maintain the migration route of numerous fishes, waterfowl, and other wildlife.

Primary threats: Airborne pollutants, noise pollution, waters contaminated with toxic waste, invasive or exotic animals and plants (especially buckthorn species, *Rhamnus cathartica* and *Frangula alnus*), diseases spread from domestic animals, land use practices within and outside the boundaries, urban sprawl, industrialization, complex land ownership. There are 114 hazardous waste sites within or near the MISS boundary; 19 are on the state Superfund list and six are on the national Superfund list.

Important management documents: The Final Comprehensive Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement was completed in 1994. A draft Resource Management Plan was completed in March 2002.

For important park monitoring reports see Supplemental Document #3

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Map of Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and surrounding vicinity.